

JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE
Education Working Group

January 13, 2012

FY12-JJ #1 School boards to provide education and materials to juvenile detention facilities as outlined in the Colorado model content standards.ⁱ

Recommendation:

Revise CRS 19-2-402(3)(a) as follows:

The school boards of the school districts that a juvenile detention facility serves or in which the juvenile detention facility is located shall satisfy the requirements as defined by C.R.S. 22-33-104ⁱⁱ and shall furnish teachers, materials, and content that are designed to meet the Colorado model content standards.

Clarification:

The existing statute reads as follows:

The school boards of the school districts that a juvenile detention facility serves or in which the juvenile detention facility is located, when requested by the judge of the juvenile court, shall furnish teachers and any books or equipment needed for the proper education of such juveniles as may be present in the juvenile detention facility.

The proposed statute removes the necessity of requiring the judge to order education. It also clarifies the necessity of the school district to provide appropriate education as currently required by the Colorado model content standards.

Discussion:

The average stay for a juvenile in detention is 14.2 days.ⁱⁱⁱ The Education Working Group of the Juvenile Task Force feels that it is important that the education of a juvenile continue during this time period.

The group also feels that it is important that such education is standardized enough so that when a juvenile is able to return to his/her school, s/he will be able to continue without disadvantage. The group has sent surveys to eight state-operated detention facilities to assess the uniformity of education provided by the school districts within the catchment area of the

detention facilities. Three responses have been returned as of January 9, 2012. Those responses do not show consistency in hours or curriculum.

The group also feels that the existing requirement that the detaining judge request that educational services be provided is unnecessary and obsolete.

ⁱ A brief explanation of such standards can be found at http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_stnd-access.htm.

ⁱⁱ 22-33-104 C.R.S. as amended is commonly known as the Compulsory School Attendance Law.

ⁱⁱⁱ Management Reference Manual, CDHS Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Youth Corrections, FY 09-10, Page V, January, 2011. Available at: http://www.Colorado.gov/cdhsdyc/Resources-Publications/MRM0910_FINAL.pdf.